



United States Department  
of Agriculture

National Agricultural  
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service  
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# Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 3, 2005  
Week Ending: October 2, 2005  
CWP WA-CW4005

## Rain Showers Brought Much Relief Hop, Potato, Corn Silage, and Fruit Harvests Continued

### Field Crops

Significant rain showers throughout the state brought much relief to moisture levels, helped winter wheat seeding progress quickly. Corn silage harvest continued in full swing. Hop harvest and potato digging continued. Christmas tree growers finished shearing and began to remove leader stakes from Noble Fir.

### Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 11% very poor, 12% poor, 27% fair, and 50% good. Livestock water sources were still depleted in some areas.

### Fruits and Vegetables

Apple and grape harvests continued. Some hail damage to fruit in the Granger area was reported. Sweet corn harvest continued in full swing. Spring flower bulb growers finished planting tulips and daffodils

### Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	5.3
Last Week	6.9

### Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	5	31	52	2
Topsoil 5 Yr Avg	22	44	33	1
Subsoil	22	40	38	0
Subsoil 5 Yr Avg	14	50	36	0
Irrigation Water	10	12	78	0
Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg	4	6	90	0
Hay & Roughage	6	10	72	12

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

### Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2004	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	74	52	70	75
Winter Wheat Emerged	40	25	46	50
Potatoes Harvested	70	65	64	60
Corn Harvest for Grain	10	7	14	6
Corn Silage Harvested	53	48	58	57
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	90	72	68	66
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	96	100	99

### Crop Condition\*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Winter Wheat Dryland	3	3	40	51	3
Winter Wheat Irrigated	0	0	0	85	15
Corn	0	2	11	75	12

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

\* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

# COUNTY COMMENTS

## Western

**Grays Harbor:** The foliage of vine maple and big leaf maples have created a tapestry of vibrant fall colors across the rural landscape signaling the transition from summer to fall. Sweet corn and silage corn harvest continued in full swing as processors rushed to harvest approximately 1500 acres of sweet corn and 500 acres of silage corn. Spring flower bulb growers finished planting tulips and daffodils. Christmas tree growers were finishing up on shearing and beginning to remove leader stakes from Noble Fir. Livestock producers were encouraged to see pastures beginning to turn green from last week's rain. Commercial dahlia growers were pleased that last week's frost did not totally kill all of the blooms allowing for continued cut flower sales. This year's harvest celebration was held on Saturday, October 1. Showcased five farms in Grays Harbor County which produce cut flowers and ornamentals. Home gardeners started raking leaves.

**King/Snohomish:** Heavy rains by the end of the week. One to two inches in some areas with scattered thunder and lightning storms. Apple harvest continued. Corn silage was being harvested. Pumpkins were ready for harvest and U-Pick farms were gearing up. Pastures were doing better with the fall rains but cooler weather was slowing growth.

**Mason:** Fields were limed on Wednesday. Right before the rain which began on Thursday; it was perfect timing. Fields were rototilled down in preparation for the winter cover crops and the fields were seeded on Saturday in between rain showers. Total rainfall for the week since it began on Thursday is 1.8 inches. At this point we're just wrapping things up ready for the winter. The plan is to rotate the cattle on back pastures

one more time once the grass starts up which we figure will happen this week. Normally at this time of year one quick rotation and then we pick a field to feed out on for a month in order to put some organic matter back into the field. Then around late November or early December the cows are brought down into our designated sacrifice field by our covered feed bunker and they stay there until March.

**Pierce:** Heavy rain showers have reduced field time. However, said rains have not changed the forage or second cutting hay possibilities because they have come too late in the growing season to be beneficial.

**Pierce/King:** Heavy rains on Friday through Sunday caused some rivers to flood in low areas.

**Thurston:** Heavy rain showers and much cooler temperatures have quickly transitioned agricultural activities from summer to fall. Turfgrass growers were pleased with the nearly perfect climatic conditions for seed germination (ample moisture and cooler temperatures). Christmas tree growers reported the heavy rains have already made trees appear to be greener. Pastures were already showing hints of green from rainfall the previous week. U-Pick pumpkin farms opened up on Saturday, October 1 but reported slow sales due to the miserable weather. Blueberry fields were a spectacular display of fall color. Home gardeners were busy picking the last of the tomato crop.

**Thurston (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Rain started Thursday. Expected to stop July 6, 2006!

## Central

**Benton:** Received some much needed showers over the weekend. Grape and apple harvest continued.

**Chelan/Douglas:** Apple harvest continued. Pear harvest was complete. Rain received in the past three days. Temperatures were cooling off. No reports of frost at this time. Fall pasture conditions were fair.

**Kittitas:** Cool fall weather was here. We were getting some rain.

**Kittitas (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Cooler temperatures and significant rain this week may have arrived soon enough for some green-up on rangeland, and probably soon enough for knapweed to germinate and emerge

(good opportunity to spray). Timothy hay growers who had water for a new seeding were watching the sprouts come up, and have been spared a killing frost thus far. Hay growers remained concerned about timothy hay stands that have been dormant since July. Fears compounded by the apparent explosion in the meadow vole population, due in part to the absence of summer field saturation for lack of irrigation water. Rangeland users were bringing cows home now, preparing to wean calves.

**Yakima:** Average temperatures ranged from eight degrees above normal to 11 degrees below normal, with .28 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

## Eastern

**Adams:** After precipitation at the end of the week growers in southern Adams County, who were not going to seed winter wheat and just seed spring wheat because of a lack of moisture, will now seed winter wheat starting this week.

**Columbia:** Rains fell for most of the county on Friday, Friday night, and Saturday morning totaling about 0.75 to 1.0 inches. Some feeding of hay for beef cattle had occurred during the last week.

**Ferry:** Received some scattered heavy rain showers over the last week. This helped with the fire danger and improved palatability of dry range grasses.

**Ferry/Okanogan:** Apple harvest was still underway. Pear harvest was near complete. Range conditions remained fair to good. Livestock water sources were still depleted. Temperatures were cooling off. We have not received any reports of frost.

**Lincoln:** The recent rains were much appreciated!

**Lincoln (2<sup>nd</sup> Report):** Winter wheat seeding was progressing throughout the county and was nearly complete. Rains at the end of the week should be a good start to replenishing depleted soil moisture as we go into the fall and winter season.

**Pend Oreille:** Temperatures for the week were for the high 68 degrees and the low 19 degrees and 2.0 inches of precipitation. Four days of rain, two quite heavy, have brought much needed moisture to the pastures, new growth was allowing livestock to feed on new green grass. All harvestable crops in this area were in. Weather was turning cold with ice on water troughs in the morning hours.

**Pend Oreille/Spokane:** Rain on Friday and Saturday made for some much happier farmers in Spokane and Pend Oreille County. Reports of up to 2 inches with about 1.5 inches as the normal amount on the southern end of the county. The northern end received a little over an inch of rain. With this rain (when it dries out) planting will now be in high gear and this will help loosen up the soil so tillage operations won't pull so hard. Diesel and fertilizer costs were still a big concern. The rain should help to soften up some of the late fall pasture and provide a little growth to some of the grass. Apple harvest has begun on green bluff and they were hoping for a good year.

**Whitman:** A good soaking rain was experienced by much of the county in the later part of the week. Totals varied by area but were significant enough to bring winter wheat seeding to a stop. Temperatures remained moderate without a major frost experienced yet. The rains brought welcomed relief to parched fields and pastures.

# Weekly Weather Statistics

October 3, 2005

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN		
WEST															
Bellingham	37	63	52	-3	18	-14	0	0	1.20	0.64	4	1.48	-0.62	70	7
Everett	46	68	55	0	39	3	0	0	0.49	-0.07	4	1.38	-0.93	60	8
Hoquiam	43	67	54	-4	32	-23	0	-7	2.18	1.21	4	2.60	-0.94	73	7
Kelso	39	75	57	-1	50	-1	2	-5	1.49	0.86	4	2.33	-0.22	91	6
Olympia	36	74	55	1	39	7	0	0	1.49	0.85	4	1.99	-0.46	81	7
Sea-Tac	46	71	57	-1	49	-1	0	-7	0.54	0.04	4	1.22	-0.81	60	9
Shelton	36	75	55	-2	41	-5	1	-6	2.13	1.33	4	3.19	0.27	109	8
Tacoma	37	75	55	-2	40	-3	1	-4	1.21	0.71	4	1.45	-0.63	70	6
Vancouver	42	77	60	4	69	22	9	2	1.78	1.25	3	1.83	-0.34	84	6
CENTRAL															
Ellensburg	34	81	58	5	64	31	12	5	0.24	0.16	2	0.25	-0.27	48	3
Stampede Pass	36	67	51	6	23	16	0	0	4.80	3.83	4	5.71	2.00	154	8
Wenatchee	41	79	60	3	73	17	17	2	0.02	-0.05	1	0.09	-0.33	21	2
Yakima AP	31	78	57	2	56	12	8	-2	0.27	0.20	3	0.35	-0.07	83	4
NORTHEAST															
Colville	31	75	55	4	44	18	5	0	0.66	0.45	4	0.82	-0.37	69	6
Deer Park	23	77	52	-2	19	-14	0	-7	0.75	0.57	4	1.02	0.09	110	7
Spokane AP	39	75	54	1	36	1	0	-7	0.97	0.83	3	1.07	0.30	139	5
EAST CENTRAL															
Ephrata	33	77	59	0	72	11	18	1	0.24	0.17	2	0.34	-0.04	89	4
Moses Lake	36	77	58	-2	59	-2	10	-7	0.35	0.28	2	0.35	-0.03	92	2
Quincy	36	76	59	3	66	17	17	6	0.24	0.17	2	0.25	-0.20	56	3
Ritzville	37	77	56	1	46	6	0	-7	0.99	0.85	3	1.19	0.59	198	6
SOUTHEAST															
Hanford	38	84	62	-1	87	5	29	0	0.10	0.03	1	0.10	-0.27	27	1
Pasco	37	84	61	2	80	16	18	1	0.77	0.70	3	0.79	0.41	208	4
Pullman	34	75	55	2	40	5	4	-3	0.58	0.32	3	0.58	-0.48	55	3
Whitman Miss.	34	84	60	4	70	23	15	5	0.62	0.43	3	0.71	-0.01	99	6
ID PANHANDLE															
Coeur D'A' AP	32	75	55	-1	42	0	5	-3	0.67	0.40	3	1.00	-0.27	79	5
Lewiston ID	46	84	62	4	86	23	23	5	0.41	0.23	2	0.45	-0.37	55	3

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2004

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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